

A3  
cancel sub 4  
4. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 3 wherein the body has a crease in the cardboard between the first and second portions for facilitating bending of the first and second portions relative to each other.

5. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 1 wherein the body is made from plastic.

6. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 1 wherein the first and second portions meet at an edge and each extend downwardly from the edge towards the hangers.

Cancel Claim 7.

A4  
cancel sub 8  
8. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 7 wherein the longitudinal axis is a longitudinal centerline and wherein the edge extends along the longitudinal centerline and the openings are spaced along the longitudinal centerline.

Cancel Claims 9-10.

As  
11. (Amended) A lightweight hanger spacer for use with a plurality of hangers having respective necks comprising a unitary, thin body of a nonmetallic material, the body having a substantially planar central portion and opposite first and second side portions inclined at respective angles relative to the central portion, the central portion having opposite first and second surfaces and a longitudinal axis, the central portion being provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart holes extending between the opposite first and second surfaces adapted for slidably receiving the respective necks of the plurality of hangers whereby the first and second side portions provide rigidity to the body and the spacing of the hangers by the central portion inhibits wrinkling of garments or other objects carried by the hangers.

12. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 11 wherein the body is made from cardboard.

13. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 11 wherein the body has a crease between the central portion and each of the first and second side portions for facilitating bending of the side portions relative to the central portion.

14. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 11 wherein the central portion has opposite first and second side edges, the first and second side portions being joined to the central portion at respective first and second side edges.

15. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 14 wherein the opposite first and second side edges extend parallel to the longitudinal axis.

16. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 11 wherein the first and second side portions are each inclined at an angle of 180° or less relative to the first surface of the central portion.

17. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 16 wherein the first and second side portions are each inclined at an angle of approximately 90° relative to the first surface of the central portion.

As  
could be  
seen

18. (Amended) The hanger spacer of Claim 16 wherein the first and second side portions are each inclined at an obtuse angle relative to the first surface of the central portion.

Cancel Claims 19-24.

A6

25. (Amended) An assembly comprising a plurality of hangers having respective necks, a unitary, thin spacer extending along a longitudinal axis, the spacer having opposite first and second surfaces and being provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart holes extending between the opposite first and second surfaces for slidably receiving the respective necks of the plurality of hangers whereby the spacing of the hangers by the spacer inhibits wrinkling of garments or other objects carried by the hangers.

26. (Amended) The assembly of Claim 25 wherein the spacer is provided with first and second longitudinally-extending portions inclined at an angle relative to each other for providing rigidity to the spacer.

A7

28. (Amended) The assembly of Claim 25 wherein the spacer is made from cardboard.

29. (Amended) The assembly of Claim 25 further comprising a tie extending through the necks above the spacer and having first and second ends that can be tied together whereby the tie precludes the hangers from undesirably separating from the spacer.

Cancel Claims 31-32.

Add the following claims:

A8  
--33. A method for separating hangers having respective hooks and necks with a unitary, thin spacer having opposite first and second surfaces and being provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced-apart holes extending between the opposite first and second surfaces comprising the step of sliding the spacer over the hooks of the hangers so that the necks extend through respective holes in the spacer whereby the spacing of the hangers by the spacer inhibits wrinkling of garments or other objects carried by the hangers.

34. The method of Claim 33 wherein the spacer is made of a nonmetallic material.

35. The method of Claim 33 wherein the spacer is made of plastic.

36. The method of Claim 33 wherein the spacer is made of cardboard.--

### REMARKS

Applicant affirms the election of FIGS. 1-4. In this regard, nonelected Claims 19-24 have been cancelled without prejudice for pursuing such claims in a divisional application. Claims 1, 11 and 25 have indicated by the Examiner to be generic claims. Applicant acknowledges that upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species that are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.